

BILLINGE *La*

Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1907.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Billinge for the year 1907.

POPULATION.—The first matter to be dealt with is the estimation of the number of persons assumed to have been living in the district at the middle of the year, which number may be taken as representing the mean population for the year, and which may form the basis for the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates.

This mean population may be estimated from the following data:—

(1) Natural Increase.

Since the census of 1901, when the population was 4,232, the births calculated to the middle of 1907 have exceeded the deaths by 397; therefore, this number added to 4,232 would give a population of 4,629.

(2) Assumption of the continued uniform rate of increase.

If the population be assumed to have increased at the rate calculated from 1891—1901, the population by the middle of the year 1907 would have become 4,385.

Census population, 1891	...	...	...	3,996
Census population, 1901	...	...	...	4,232

(3) Calculation based on the ascertained number of inhabited houses at the middle of the year.

From the census returns the average number of persons per house was 5.18. If this average number of persons per house has remained unaltered, the population for the middle of the year 1907 will be 4,465.

	Billinge-Chapel-End.	Billinge-Higher-End.	Winstanley.
Occupied Houses	370	380	112

(4) From the birth-rate, which remains fairly constant for any district.

The number of births in Billinge for the year 1907 was 139, this number multiplied by 1,000 and divided by 30.63, which is the average birth-rate for the last ten years, gives a population of 4,538.

To the populations estimated by the above methods, it is necessary to add 60 for the residents at Greenfield School.

The population estimated to the middle of 1907, by the methods herein mentioned, does not differ to any appreciable extent from that in 1906, when 4,500 was taken as the mid-year population.

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The area of Billinge is 4,591 acres, and the density of the population is .98 per acre. The number of deaths registered as belonging to the District of Billinge in 1907 was 46, of which 19 were males, and 27 females. Three of the deaths were registered in public institutions beyond the district.

The death-rate for the year 1907 equals 10.22 per 1,000 living, which is remarkably low, and is the record for the last ten years; 13.11 being the lowest, 23.76 the highest, and 17.18 the average for the same period. Of the 46 deaths, 12 occurred in infants under one year of age, four in children one year and under five, 16 in persons five years and under 65 years, and the remaining deaths, which total 14, over the 65 years age-period. The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 12, equal to an annual infantile death-rate of 86 per 1,000 registered births. This is a slight decrease as compared with 1906, when 13 deaths were registered under one year of age.

BIRTHS.—During the year 1907 there were registered within the district 139 births, 63 males and 76 females, as against 67 males and 58 females, and a total of 125 registered for 1906.

The subjoined table shows the estimated populations in the several localities, with the number of births registered in each for the year:—

Localities :	Billinge-Chapel-End.	Billinge-Higher-End.	Winstanley
Population, estimated to middle of 1907	1952	1968	580
Births	68	59	12

On calculating the birth-rates in the several localities, Billinge Chapel End has the highest with 34.83 per 1,000, Billinge Higher End next with 29.97, and Winstanley the lowest with only 20.68.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the year there were notified, in accordance with the provisions of the Compulsory Notification of Diseases Act, six cases, as against 20 cases for the previous year. In addition to the foregoing, two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were voluntarily notified.

The following table shows the distribution of these diseases:—

	Billinge-Chapel-End.	Billinge-Higher-End.	Winstanley.
Scarlet Fever	2	1	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	1	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	0	0

The death-rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases of the Registrar General, viz.:—Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, and Fever, which includes Enteric, Typhus, and Simple Continued and other ill-defined forms of Fever, equals 1.33 per 1,000 of the population.

SCARLET FEVER.—Three cases of this disease have been notified during the year, as against nine cases for the previous year. The whole of the cases were widely separated, both as to time of infection and distance from each other. Two of the cases ended in death, and corresponded to the third year of life, which is the most fatal period of Scarlet Fever.

It is most important to avoid infection at this period of life, as the longer an attack is deferred the less likely it is to occur at all; and not only so, but that, even supposing it to occur eventually, the less likely it is to end fatally.

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ERYSIPELAS.—Two cases of this disease have been notified. In one of the cases there is a history of repeated attacks, which is not unusual in this disease; some persons appear especially prone to be attacked by this malady.

ENTERIC FEVER.—There has been a gradual decline in the prevalency of this disease during the past three years; only one case being notified this year, three last year, and four the previous year. This is very important, as the frequency of this disease depends largely upon the sanitary defects existing in a given district.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Three cases of this disease have been brought before my notice. Two occurred in the same block of buildings, and the other reached me through the death occurring in the Wigan Workhouse. It is interesting to note that a death from this disease occurred last year in the same block of buildings as the two herein mentioned. No doubt the important factors at work are the evil effects which are ever present in insanitary property. In this property there is to be found absence of through ventilation, want of proper sunlight, dampness of walls arising from absence of damp-proof courses, and inefficient drainage of site and surroundings.

The third case no doubt resulted from neglect on the part of the individual, as there is a history of probable impaired nutrition arising from alcoholic excess and improper housing.

MEASLES.—During the month of February this disease was prevalent in Billinge Chapel End, and almost necessitated the closure of the Infants' Department of St. Mary's School, Birchley. Most of the cases were of a very mild type, and only in one case did death result.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.—Eleven deaths were reported as due to these diseases; seven from Bronchitis and four from Pneumonia. The whole of the deaths occurred in the first and fourth quarters of the year, periods when atmospheric influences have very marked effect upon the respiratory tract, lowering its vitality, and thus providing a suitable soil for disease.

DEATHS UNCERTIFIED BY REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.—No deaths during the year were returned as "not certified," and inquests have been held upon three cases, classified as follows:—

Accidental Injuries	...	...	...	2
Suicide	...	...	...	1

OLD PROPERTY.—This is very far from satisfactory, particularly some of the cottage property in Billinge Chapel End. I rather think a good deal of this class of property would cease to be occupied if houses of a suitable rental were constructed for the working class. No doubt much has been done by some owners to improve this class of property, but nothing short of demolition will meet the necessary requirements in many cases. At Fair View an improvement scheme is under consideration, by which the rain water from the property above will be prevented from flooding the property at a lower level, also the road connected with this property is to be put into proper repair and drained.

DRAINS, SEWERS, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—All new drains and sewers are inspected by the Surveyor. The drainage of the Workhouse which is being built in Billinge Higher End is to be dealt with by separate systems of drainage, as far as possible, as the present sewer is only sufficiently large to receive the sewage, and not the surface water as well. The drainage from the church and yard has been connected with the sewer, and a new drain has been laid near to the "Horse Shoe" to receive the surface water, which has at times flooded the cellar at this house, as well as the houses of adjoining property. In addition to the foregoing improvements, a new drain has also been constructed and connected with the sewer at Gorsey Brow to replace an old stone drain

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which communicated with cellar washhouses, and caused a nuisance. Periodical flushing and good ventilation of the sewers have been followed by satisfactory results, and the Sewage Farms have at all times given satisfactory effluents after treatment by preliminary straining and broad irrigation.

CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING.—This is carried out by the Council's workmen. Much difficulty has arisen of late from farmers being unwilling to cart away the contents of privies and ashpits, in consequence of rubbish which is deposited into them, and requires removal before the contents can be applied to the land for agricultural purposes. Unless some assistance is given to the farmer by making bye-laws under the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, imposing duties on the occupier so as to facilitate the work, I fear the Council will have to undertake the whole of the work themselves. To meet the present difficulty, I think the construction in connection with sanitary conveniences of a small receptacle for rubbish would in great measure remove the complaints under which the farmer suffers. At Holy Fold a disused hollow has been piped off, and is now being used by the Council for the deposit of household refuse.

Eighteen notices have been served during the year to abate the following nuisances:—

Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	11
Defective Spouting	...	...	...	3
Insanitary Cellars	...	...	...	1
Keeping Poultry	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding	...	...	...	1
Defective Yard Pavement	...	...	...	1

DISINFECTION.—This has been carried out as in the past by means of chemical agents. The Brownlow Cottage is in readiness for any emergency, but I am pleased to report that there has not been any need during the year to make use of the building.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.—These premises have been inspected, and much work is required to improve the ventilation, lighting, drainage, and cleansing of many of the older buildings. In no case has infectious disease been notified amongst those engaged in the milk trade, nor has any case of infectious disease been traced to the milk supply. As milk is so important a food at all periods of life, and is often a carrier of disease, the source of which may be general or specific, I hope more attention will be given to it, both chemically and bacteriologically.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are three in the district, all of which are registered, and receive periodic inspection. The one situated in Billinge Higher End has been complained of, and notices have been served to improve the insanitary state of the yard space and the spouting connected with several outbuildings on the premises. The removal of offal and other refuse from these premises has received more attention during the past year.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—Apart from works engaged in mining and brick-making, the whole of the premises within the district come under the heading of Workshops. In no case has work been sent out of the district, nor has any notice from outside Authorities been received of work being sent into it. The whole of these premises have been free from infectious disease, and periodic inspections have been made to see that the provisions of the Act are complied with. Two of the bakehouses have been fitted up with modern appliances, and the buildings are well adapted for the work, and are kept in a cleanly state.

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WATER SUPPLY.—This has been plentiful during the year, and has been subjected to analysis, with satisfactory results. The water scheme, which involves the making of two reservoirs, a storage reservoir of 8,000,000 gallons, and a service reservoir of 150,000 gallons has not progressed beyond the acquisition of a favourable site, which is 548 feet above O. D., and the adoption by the Council of the plans for their construction.

Death-rate	...	...	...	...	10.22
Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	30.88
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	...	1.33

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. O. MATHER, M.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

February 24th, 1908.

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TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1907 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond District.	NETT DEATH AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 year of age.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	At all ages	Rate.		Number.	Rate
1897	4250	149	35.00	34	228	101	23.76	0	101	23.76
1898	4200	133	31.66	19	142	79	18.81	0	79	18.81
1899	4250	125	29.41	19	136	64	15.05	1	65	15.29
1900	4250	128	30.11	28	218	73	17.17	2	75	17.64
1901	4250	135	31.76	28	207	70	16.47	2	72	16.94
1902	4250	120	28.23	20	166	76	18.11	2	78	18.35
1903	4300	148	34.41	19	128	77	17.90	0	77	17.90
1904	4350	116	26.66	24	206	67	15.40	3	70	16.09
1905	4500	141	31.33	16	113	58	12.88	1	59	13.11
1906	4500	125	27.77	13	104	60	13.30	3	63	14.00
Averages for years 1897—1906	4310	132	30.63	21.8	164.8	72.5	16.88	1.4	73.9	17.18
1907	4500	139	30.88	12	86	43	9.55	3	46	10.22

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4,591.

Total population at all ages, 4,232 at census of 1901.

Number of inhabited houses 817

Average number of persons per house, 5.18,,

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District: None.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District: Wigan

Infirmary and Workhouse.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

TABLE II.
VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1907 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		BILLINGE-CHAPEL-END.				BILLINGE-HIGHER-END.				WINSTANLEY.			
YEAR.		Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1897	...	2010	65	36	13	1680	72	37	20	560	12	8	1
1898	...	1970	70	41	8	1670	51	24	9	560	12	14	2
1899	...	1990	68	34	10	1700	45	18	5	560	12	13	2
1900	...	1990	69	36	15	1700	45	33	13	560	14	6	0
1901	...	2068	69	33	15	1600	58	29	13	564	8	8	0
1902	...	2072	61	41	10	1618	52	27	8	560	7	10	3
1903	...	2090	76	32	7	1650	61	32	12	560	11	13	0
1904	...	2100	58	31	10	1700	48	33	11	550	10	6	3
1905	..	2140	67	29	8	1800	62	25	6	560	12	5	2
1906	...	1968	61	33	8	1968	54	25	5	564	10	5	0
Averages of Years 1897 to 1906.		2039.8	66.4	34.6	10.4	1708.6	54.8	28.3	10.2	559.8	10.8	8.8	1.3
1907	...	1952	68	26	7	1968	59	14	5	580	12	6	0

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TABLE 3.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1907.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At Ages—Years.							Billinge- Chapel- End.	Billinge- Higher- End.	Winstanley.	Billinge- Chapel- End.	Billinge- Higher- End.	Winstanley.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Erysipelas	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculos...	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	8	0	3	0	0	5	0	6	2	0	0	0	0

TABLE 4.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES AT ALL AGES.		
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Billinge- Chapel- End.	Billinge- Higher- End.	Win- stanley.
Measles	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Diarrhœa	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Phthisis (P'lmonary Tuberculosis)	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Bronchitis	6	2	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	2
Pneumonia	4	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	1
Premature Birth	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Heart Diseases	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Accidents	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
Suicides	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
All other causes	20	4	1	2	0	6	7	10	7	3
All causes... ..	46	12	4	3	1	12	14	26	14	6

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TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week.	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	6-9 Months.	10-11 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes—													
Certified	...	...	...	2	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	12
Uncertified	..	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Infectious Diseases—													
Small-pox	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria : Croup	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœal Diseases—													
Diarrhœa, all forms	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Wasting Diseases—													
Premature Birth	...	...	...	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Want of Breast-milk	...	...	...	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tuberculous Diseases—													
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Causes:—													
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rickets	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Convulsions	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Laryngitis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Causes	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				2	2	4	2	2	2	0	1	1	12

Population estimated to middle of 1907, 4,500.

Births in the Year { Legitimate 133
 { Illegitimate 6

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 10 ; illegitimate infants, 2.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 46

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ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR 1907, FOR THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF BILLINGE,

ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, IN CONNECTION WITH
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ...	3	None	None
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)..	17	1	—
Total	20	1	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.—One. Remedied, One.

3.—HOME WORK.—None.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

								Number
Workshops on the Register (S.131) at the end of the year.								
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bootmaker	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clog Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of workshops on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17

5.—OTHER MATTERS.—None.

